March 12, 2011
CHANGED THE LIVES OF MANY

The Freshman Class is asking for your help with raising money for the victims of the earthquake that tragically struck Japan.

PLEASE GIVE A DONATION
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011
DURING LUNCH/DINNER IN THE CAFETERIA

By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them... 

Dr. Marco Robinson presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mrs. Earnestine Scott and Dr. David L. Beckley for their participation in the Ida B. Wells/Roy Wilkins Lecture Series held March 23, 2011. Scott and Beckley both told stories of their involvement in the Civil Rights movement in Marshall and Benton Counties in the 1960s.

Mrs. Lillie McNeal has given more than 40 years of service to Rust College.

Religious Emphasis Week “Transformed for Transformation” Honors Mrs. Lillie McNeal

Not many institutions can proclaim to have employees who loyally serve for forty-plus years. Rust College has a history of possessing staff members who go above and beyond—not only in the quality of their work—but in their dedication to Rust College. One such member is Mrs. Lillie Spell McNeal.

The Division of Humanities presented Mrs. McNeal with a token of appreciation during the Religious Emphasis luncheon held in her honor Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at the David L. Beckley Conference Center. Mrs. McNeal, who has served Rust College for forty-four combined years, has introduced thousands of Rustites to religion and philosophy during her time as instructor and professor in the Division of Humanities. Her introduction to Biblical Studies, with its lectures and sharp academic focus, has become legendary among students, alumni and other faculty members.

The guest speaker for the luncheon was Rev. Emma G. Ward, ’09, who is a former student of Mrs. McNeal. Rev. Ward made Rust College history when she, her husband, and their son all graduated simultaneously in 2009. Rev. Ward and her husband have ministered together for 13 years and are co-founders of Trinity United Methodist Church in Marks, Mississippi.

“When I saw Mrs. McNeal, my feelings got a little hurt because I just knew she would remember me,” said Rev. Ward, laughing. “But it’s okay because we know Mrs. McNeal has love for ALL of her students.”

“She wanted their minds to be transformed. She wanted them to know that the Word is there to help, not hinder.”


Mrs. McNeal served the campus of Rust College for nine years before taking a break to explore new endeavors.

“But I missed Rust College,” she said. “I asked God a few years ago if he was ready for me to leave. He said ‘I still have things for you to do there.’”

Mrs. McNeal will retire at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. A retirement ceremony will be held the weekend of the 145th Commencement of Rust College April 29-May 1, 2011.
Students Write Letters to Congressmen About Pell and SEOG Funding

Students gathered outside Shaw Cafeteria Friday, March 18, 2011 to write letters to Congressman Alan Nunnelee and others to voice their opinion of the recent passing of House Bill HR 1, which will reduce Pell grants by more than $800 and will eliminate Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG). These changes, if approved by the Senate, will take effect in the Fall of 2011. Under the leadership of Dr. Sandra Vaughn, more than 400 letters were mailed to Washington, D.C.

If you have either one of these programs in your aid package, you need to write Congressman Alan Nunnelee and voice your concern over his vote to cut these critical programs that support your efforts to stay in school. You may write the Congressman at 1432 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C., 20515. Also, write Senators Roger Wicker and Thad Cochran at United States Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510, and ask them not to support HR 1 when it is referred to the Senate, because of the cuts in the Pell program and the elimination of SEOG. Both programs are critical to Rust students. If you have any questions, visit the President’s office.

Lyceum Series to Welcome Author to Rust College

The Rust College Lyceum Series presents Michele Andrea Bowen for a book review and signing Wednesday, March 30, 2011.

Bowen, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, completed her academic training by earning her undergraduate and Master’s degrees at Washington University in St. Louis, then moved to North Carolina where she earned graduate degrees from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Bowen began writing at a young age; spinning the tales of little black girls living in St. Louis. Her writing efforts deepened as she went through high school at Beaumont High School in St. Louis; her stories were about black urban teen life in the 1970s. Her first novel, Church Folk, was published by Grand Central Publishing in 2001. Since then, she has published four more novels: Second Sunday (2003), Holy Ghost Corner (2006), Up at the College (2009), and More Church Folk (2010), a sequel to Church Folk.

Bowen will review her novels at Heard Auditorium in the Business, Computer Science, and Social Science Center at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to this free event.

Alumnus Receives Esteemed Award

Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore, ’64, received the W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Inc. during the Association’s Annual Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. He was recognized for his personal and professional achievements in the academy. McLemore recently retired from Jackson State University in 2010, however, he was appointed interim president of Jackson State, which he served until January 1, 2011. He was presented the award by Dr. George T. Mitchell, ’67.

Bowen will review her novels at Heard Auditorium in the Business, Computer Science, and Social Science Center at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to this free event.

Stone Mountain Fourth Grader: Future Rust Recruiter?

Donovan Moncrief of Stone Mountain, GA, created a Rust College recruitment project for his fourth grade class at Wynbrooke Elementary. He is the author of a tri-fold board that explains Rust College's campus, programs, and student life. His board, which is currently displayed in the school, has captured the attention of Rust College's admissions team, who are impressed by his creativity and passion for education.

Make sure to vote EVERYDAY! Make Rust College #1!